

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1-125. **(Canceled).**

126. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with an isolated polypeptide having at least 50% sequence identity with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating the dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in culture medium containing the polypeptide, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

127. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the polypeptide is recombinant.

128-130. **(Canceled).**

131. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126 or 127, wherein the polypeptide is in unit dosage form.

132-143. **(Canceled).**

144. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a cell strain expressing a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 50% sequence identity with amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and the cell strain in culture medium, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

145-148. **(Canceled).**

149. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

150. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2.

151-156. **(Canceled).**

157. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the polypeptide is purified essentially to homogeneity.

158. **(Cancelled).**

159. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~128~~ 126, wherein said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells are present in a the sample taken from a human or animal.

160. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a purified polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating ~~[a-]~~ the dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in culture medium containing the polypeptide, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

161. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a purified polypeptide comprising at least amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:[-]2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating the dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells in culture medium containing the polypeptide, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

162. **(Cancelled).**

163. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a cell strain expressing a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: [-]2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating the dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells; and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and said cell strain in culture medium, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

164. **(Currently Amended)** A method of stimulating growth of high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, the method comprising

(i) contacting the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or the dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells *in vitro* with a cell strain expressing a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising at least amino acid residues 117 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide is capable of stimulating growth of the high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or of resuscitating the dormant, moribund, or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells, and

(ii) incubating said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells and said cell strain in culture medium, thereby stimulating the growth of said high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells or resuscitating said dormant, moribund or latent high G+C Gram-positive bacterial cells.

165. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:36 or SEQ ID NO:43.

166. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:7.

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| 167. <b>(Currently Amended)</b><br>polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:1.    | The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated |
| 168. <b>(Previously Presented)</b><br>polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:3. | The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated |
| 169. <b>(Previously Presented)</b><br>polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:4. | The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated |
| 170. <b>(Previously Presented)</b><br>polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:5. | The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated |
| 171. <b>(Previously Presented)</b><br>polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:6. | The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated |
| 172. <b>(Previously Presented)</b><br>polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:8. | The method of claim 126, wherein the isolated |